

Amendment to the Claims:

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for automatically providing peripheral awareness of information of interest to a first user, comprising:

representing the information of interest with at least one ticket, each ticket comprising a customizable dynamic encapsulated object;

using at least one viewer for defining how the information of interest represented by each ticket is displayed;

pairing at least one viewer with each ticket; and

hosting at least one ticket/and viewer pairs in at least one container on a display device, wherein each ticket/and viewer pair is represented by a thumbnail displayed in one of the containers,wherein a container is displayed as a sidebar that is not coverable by other application windows such that the containers are always visible.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising using more or more services for automatically and dynamically tracking a current state of the information of interest.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the displayed thumbnail dynamically displays the current state of the information of interest on the display device.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein each ticket is sharable.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein each container is resizable and wherein the thumbnails hosted in any container are automatically resized after resizing that container.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein at least two tickets are aggregated into at least one group.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the group is displayed as a group thumbnail within the container.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein a multi-viewer is paired with the group, and wherein the multi-viewer is capable of displaying a summary within the thumbnail of the information represented by the tickets comprising the group.

9. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the group is expandable to show the tickets within the group.

10. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein at least two groups are aggregated into a nested group.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein a multi-viewer is paired with the group, and wherein the multi-viewer is capable of displaying a summary within the thumbnail of the information represented by the tickets comprising the group.

12. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein any number of groups are aggregated into any number of levels of recursively nested groups.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the recursively nested groups are recursively expandable.

14. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the nested group is expandable to show the groups within the nested group.

15. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the groups within the nested group are expandable to show the tickets within the groups.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4 wherein ticket are sharable between the first user and the—at least one additional user by sending at least one ticket as an email attachment.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein each ticket is sharable between the first user and the—at least one additional user by saving each ticket to a computer readable medium, and providing the computer readable medium to the at least one additional user.

19. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein at least one ticket is provided to any user by dragging and dropping at least one ticket from a remote web site to at least one user display device.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein a ticket dropped within a container is automatically paired with a compatible viewer, and wherein the information represented by the dropped ticket is automatically displayed as a thumbnail within the container.

21. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein an actionable tooltip window is provided in response to selecting a thumbnail.

22. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the information of interest is a contact.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein the thumbnail provides a graphical indication of an availability status of the contact.

24. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein a person window is provided in response to selecting a thumbnail representing the contact.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein the person window provides communications availability status of the contact via at least one communications channel.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25 further comprising a user interface for initiating communications via at least one of the communications channels.

27. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein the person window provides a representation of a historical availability of the contact.

28. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising a capability to arrange thumbnails within the container.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28 wherein the thumbnails are arranged automatically.

30. (Original) The system of claim 28 wherein the thumbnails are arranged via a user interface.

31. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein the thumbnail dynamically displays a summary of the current state of the information of interest on the display device, and wherein additional information is provided when the size of the thumbnail is increased.

32. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein the thumbnail dynamically displays a summary of the current state of the information of interest on the display device, and wherein less information is provided when the size of the thumbnail is decreased.

33. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein a ticket is automatically created by dragging and dropping any electronic file onto a container.

34. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein each ticket is represented by an XML data structure.

35. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein each ticket further includes a visibility flag, and wherein particular thumbnails are only displayed when the visibility flag is set for the associated ticket.

36. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein at least one thumbnail is automatically displayed at a predetermined time in response to at least one scheduled event for a user.

37-57. (Cancelled)

58. (Currently Amended) A system for automatically providing peripheral awareness of information of interest, comprising:

representing the information of interest with at least one ticket, each ticket comprising a customizable dynamic encapsulated object;

using at least one viewer for defining how the information of interest represented by each ticket is displayed;

pairing at least one viewer with each ticket;

hosting at least one ticket/and viewer pairs in at least one container on a display device, wherein each ticket/and viewer pair is represented by a thumbnail displayed in one of the containers, wherein a container is displayed as a sidebar that is not coverable by other application windows such that the containers are always visible;

interacting with the information of interest by using at least one service for each ticket; and

providing the information of interest in an interactive persistent display.

59. (Original) The system of claim 58 wherein the services represent functionality for any of interacting with, accessing, receiving and retrieving the information of interest.

60. (Original) The system of claim 58 wherein each service is sharable by more than one ticket, and wherein more than one ticket can use one or more services simultaneously.

61. (Original) The system of claim 58 wherein more than one service is combined for use by one or more tickets for interacting with the information of interest.

62. (Currently amended) A system for automatically providing peripheral awareness of information of interest to a user, comprising:

representing the information of interest with at least one ticket, each ticket comprising a customizable dynamic encapsulated object;

using at least one viewer for defining how the information of interest represented by each ticket is displayed;

pairing at least one viewer with each ticket; and

hosting at least one ticket/and viewer pairs in at least one container on a display device, wherein each ticket/and viewer pair is represented by a thumbnail, wherein a container is displayed as a sidebar that is not coverable by other application windows such that the containers are always visible;

displaying each thumbnail in one of the containers; and

providing at least one actionable tooltip window in response to selection of any thumbnail.

63. (Original) The system of claim 62 wherein the information of interest is a contact.

64. (Original) The system of claim 63 wherein the tooltip window includes at least one communication access point for the contact.

65. (Original) The system of claim 64 further comprising automatically identifying a best available communication access point for the contact.